

Attorney Docket No. 57,145-RCE (46547)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): H. Katoh, et al.

EXAMINER: A. A. Awad

SERIAL NO.:

10/084,109

GROUP:

2675

FILED:

February 27, 2002

CONFIRMATION NO.: 6866

FOR:

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Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following is in response to a Final Office Action mailed January 19, 2005 and an Advisory Action mailed March 9, 2005 for the captioned patent application. Please preliminarily amend the claims as shown, beginning on page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment, before calculating the fee therefor.

The Applicants believe that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified time period. The Applicants, however, conditionally petition for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below, charge Deposit Account 04-1105 for any required fee.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV438997581US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.Q. Box 1450, Alexandrig, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 31, 2005

Signature